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W Y C O M B E
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1960



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1960

Medical Officer of Health:
A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
J.P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1960

Chairman:

Mr C. Morris

Vice-Chairman:

Mr F. Hales

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1960.

Chairman:

Mr G.B. Lee

The Chairman of the Council

The Vice-Chairman of the Council

The Ex-Chairman

The Chairman of the Finance Committee

The Chairman of the Public Works Committee

The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee

Mrs F.L.E. Bradley

Mr H.W. Bristow

Mrs A.M. Conoley

Mr R.J. Field

Mr E.C. Halsey

Mr H.A. Harris

Mrs A.S. Laing

Sq.Ldr. B. Lock.

Mr H.F. Nixey

Mrs F.H. Pitcher

Mr G. Spear

Rev. H.H. Vickers

Mrs D.M. Walker

Mrs C. Wontner

Mr R. Wooster

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

A.J. Muir, M.B., Ch.B., B.H.V. D.P.H.

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough and
Marlow Urban District Council).

Main Office Address:- Municipal Health Centre,
High Wycombe. Tel. H.W. 4031/2.

Home Tel. H.W. 1338

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

T.E. Roberts, M.B., B.S., D (Obst.) R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

(Also Assistant County Medical and School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough
and Marlow Urban District Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J.P. FERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Meat Certificate

Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. SULLIVAN, M.A.P.H.I.

S.A. LATIMER, C.R.S.H.

E. EVANS, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks:

MISS R.M. SPENCER

MISS S.E. BALL

Rodent Operatives:

E.V. BOWLER

MRS D. KIBBLES

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

November 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report on the Health Services of the District.

In recent reports it has been usual to record a substantial increase in the population and the year 1960 has been no exception in this respect. The Registrar General's estimate of the population in mid 1960 was 49, 110 an increase of 1,240 on that for the preceding year. 439 excess births over deaths accounted for part of this increase, the remaining 801 being attributed to inward migration.

In 1960 there were 924 births an increase of 92 on the previous year. This is reflected in the rise of the birth rate from 17.4 to 18.8.

As with births so there was an increase from 429 to 485 in the number of deaths - this caused a rise in the mortality rate from 9.0 to 9.9

Unfortunately there was a substantial increase in the number of infant deaths - there were 21 compared with 10 in the previous year when however there were 92 fewer births. The local infantile mortality rate however at 22.7 per 1,000 related births is only slightly above the national figure - 21.7 per 1,000.

Of the 485 deaths registered, 227 were due to diseases of the circulatory system, 99 were due to cancer and 61 to respiratory diseases.

Of all cancer deaths lung cancer accounted for 26 or just over a quarter, there being 23 males and 3 females, and the average age at death was 62.43 years. Not so long ago tuberculosis of the lungs was the killer and from it one expected a large number of deaths every year but nowadays lung cancer has taken its place.

During the year there was little of note in the incidence of infectious diseases, there being 13 notifications of measles, 22 scarlet fever and 8 whooping cough. There was also the tail end of the outbreak of diphtheria which began the previous year. Fortunately there was no fatality resulting from this and locally it served a useful purpose in reminding parents of the need to have their children immunised. Diphtheria had become such a rare disease that there was a tendency for this to be forgotten.

poliomyelitis was again absent and the immunisation campaign continued during the year when in the Wycombe area an average of over 750 injections were given every week, and many evening sessions were arranged to cope with the eligible working population.

In conclusion I thank the Chief Public Health Inspector and all the Staff of the Department for their co-operation during the year and my brother officials for their co-operation in furthering the work of the services.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

A.J. Muir

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	71,232
Population (1951) census.....	39,375
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1960.....	49,160
No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March, 1960)....	14,937
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1960.....	£648,483
Estimated product of Penny Rate 1st April, 1960.....	£2,606

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number.....	924
Rate per 1000 population.....	18.8

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births....	4.54
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Stillbirths

Number.....	13
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	13.88

Total Live and Still Births.....	937
----------------------------------	-----

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year).....	21
--	----

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births.....	22.7
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births.....	22.67
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	23.8

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births).....	17.3
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Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)...	17.05
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Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births).....	27.75
--	-------

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.....	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	-

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	256
		Females	-	229
		Totals		<u>485</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....				9.9
Comparability Factor.....				1.08
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....				10.62
Death Rate of England and Wales.....				11.5
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....				0.05

INFANT MORTALITY.

21 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	11	9	20
Illegitimate.....	0	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>21</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 22.7 per 1,000 related births compared with 21.7 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neonatal mortality rate - 17.3, compared with a county rate of 15.7.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes. 0

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	0	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	1	1	2
10. Cancer, stomach.....	4	3	7
11. Cancer, lungs.....	23	3	26
12. Cancer, breast.....	0	14	14
13. Cancer, uterus.....	0	2	2
14. Other cancers.....	25	25	50
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	1	2
16. Diabetes.....	2	2	4
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	26	34	60
18. Coronary diseases, angina.....	55	37	92
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	2	2	4
20. Other heart diseases.....	24	20	44
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	12	15	27
22. Influenza.....	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia.....	16	15	31
24. Bronchitis.....	16	9	25
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	3	2	5
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	4	0	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea....	0	2	2
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....	4	2	6

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd)

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4	0	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.....	4	6	10
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	19	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	5	3	8
34. Other accidents.....	4	9	13
35. Suicide.....	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0	0
All causes.	256	229	485

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	<u>Rates per 1,000 Total</u> <u>(Live and Still) Births.</u>	
	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales.</u>	<u>Wycombe Rural</u> <u>District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes, excluding abortion		Nil
(b) Due to abortion.....		Nil
(c) Total maternal mortality.....	0.39	0.00

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	52
Females.....	47
	<hr/>
Total	99
	<hr/>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1960.....	99
1959.....	81
1958.....	77
1957.....	84
1956.....	79
1955.....	62

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	7
Lungs.....	26
Breast.....	14
Uterus.....	2
Other sites.....	50
	<hr/>
Total.....	99
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0.02
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.02
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).....	61
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....	1.25

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1960.

	Population Census 1951	Registrar-General's estimated Population Mid-1960	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births
Bucks County	386,291	469,210	18.6	9.7	0.05	19.8	15.7	0.11
Total Urban	193,231	228,830	19.1	9.7	0.05	21.1	16.5	0.23
Total Rural	193,060	240,380	18.2	9.7	0.05	18.5	14.8	0.00
Wycombe Rural	39,375	49,160	18.8	9.9	0.02	22.7	17.3	0.00
England and Wales			17.1	11.5	0.075	21.7	15.6	0.39

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1960.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age periods									Age Un- known
		Under 1 yr.	1 yr. - 2 yrs.	2 yrs. - 3 yrs.	3 yrs. - 4 yrs.	4 yrs. - 5 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25+	
Scarlet Fever	22	-	2	-	1	1	11	3	2	2	-
Whooping Cough	8	-	-	2	1	-	4	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	13	-	-	2	1	-	5	1	1	1	2
Diphtheria	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	7	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	3	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis: Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	62	-	2	4	3	1	24	6	5	14	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1960.

(a) (b)

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	6	8	1	1	1	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This is carried out in the Welfare Clinics and in practitioners' surgeries. Details are given below - there was a great increase in the number of primary immunisations and in the number of boosting doses. This resulted from the small outbreak of diphtheria which occurred at the end of 1959.

Primary Immunisations.

Under 1 year.	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	Total
452	201	35	17	27	135	89	956

Booster Doses.

1 - 131	4 years	5 - 756	9 years	10 - 367	14 years	Total
						1,254

Diphtheria.

As noted in last year's report diphtheria returned to the district in the winter of 1960, when three cases were reported - these were all retrospective diagnoses. What was common to all three was contact with Loudwater School and four diphtheria carriers were found among the classmates of one of these cases and a teacher at the school contracted the disease. When the school resumed after the Xmas vacation eleven carriers were found and were sent to Glade Isolation Hospital, Oxford, where one was found to be a mild case. There were two other notification of diphtheria in February, a married woman from Princes Risborough who had just been discharged from St John's Hospital and a seventeen year old girl from Flackwell Heath. This patient had contacts with St John's Hospital, Two ex-patients of this hospital were found to be carriers.

In all there were 30 carriers found - five of them being adults.

Whenever possible carriers were isolated in hospital and were treated with appropriate doses of erythromycin. Adults were similarly treated at home by their general practitioners. During the period many parents took advantage of the opportunities offered of having their children immunised or "boosted" as appropriate and 681 pupils attending adjoining nursery, infants and primary schools were so dealt with.

Loudwater School had 228 on roll. Of this number 60% had been fully immunised, 7% had been given one injection and there was no record of the other 33% having had any injections at all.

Nowadays it is possible for the carrier state to be dealt with by antibiotics so that by energetic measures taken at the first threat of an outbreak to find the carriers, isolate and treat them the danger of its smouldering on is minimised.

If this limited outbreak did nothing else it boosted our immunisation figures for the year.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

During the year all under 40 years of age became eligible for vaccination. This meant that clinics had to be used in the evenings so that adults could be vaccinated outside working hours. In this area 35,455 injections were given in 1960.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

During the year 731 children were immunised against whooping-cough. 551 children were immunised against tetanus. This latter procedure is becoming increasingly popular with the parents,

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

During the year 655 primary vaccinations were carried out. There were 80 re-vaccinations.

VACCINATIONS AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

The routine vaccination of children in the 13 year old group was continued during the year. Pupils attending maintained and private schools were eligible for this service. In the area of the Wycombe Divisional Executive 1,620 children were tuberculin tested, 1,483 (91.54% of the total) were found to be negative and were vaccinated with B.C.G. The acceptance rate for this procedure is very high.

HOSPITALS.

The available hospitals in the District are the High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital, Booker Hospital, Amersham General Hospital, Maidenhead Isolation Hospital, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow; Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury Isolation Hospital, Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury; The Radcliffe Infirmary, Churchill Hospital and the Slade Hospital, Oxford; and the Battle Hospital, Reading.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The ambulance station situated at West End Street, High Wycombe, serves the major portion of the district. This is a modern establishment in constant radio-communication with ambulances on the road.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47

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No formal action.

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following table:

Parish	Supplied direct by pipes into houses		Supplied by Standpipes.	
	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton.	591	1,910	4	20
Bradenham.....	40	320	-	-
Ellesborough.....	281	980	4	16
Fawley.....	58	256	4	14
Fingest.....	566	2,260	14	51
Hambleton.....	427	1,750	12	45
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	110	430	5	18
Hedsor.....	43	170	1	3
Hughenden.....	1,874	6,380	16	63
Ibstone.....	94	340	2	9
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	256	890	2	7
Lacey Green.....	378	1,590	5	21
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	176	720	2	7
Marlow, Gt.....	616	1,720	21	74
Marlow, Lt.....	264	1,110	6	23
Medmenham.....	124	880	3	14
Radnage.....	202	580	3	9
Princes Risborough.....	1,947	6,380	4	15
Stokenchurch.....	813	3,070	5	18
Turville.....	105	440	11	31
West Wycombe Rural.....	562	2,150	10	34
Wooburn.....	2,448	7,600	25	79
Chepping Wycombe Rural.	2,817	8,080	32	118
Totals.....	14,792	50,006	191	689

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1960.

I am also indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following figures:-

Dis- trict.	Area Covered	Estimated Gallons removed.
1	Speen, Lacey Green, Great & Lt Hampden, Butlers Cross, Terrick, Ellesborough, Loosley Row, Parslows Hillock, Bradenham, Dunsmore, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Hughenden Valley.....	2,633,500
2	Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Bledlow & Bledlow Ridge, Longwick, Meadley, Ilmer, Saunderton, Kimble, Marsh, Horsenden, Asckett, Whiteleaf, Bradenham, Pictonville, Owlswick, Loudwater.....	2,841,000
3	Tylers Green, Penn, Hammersley Lane, London Road, Queensmead, Fassetts Rd, Norwood Rd, Robinson Rd. (Part Loudwater).....	2,819,000
4	Stokenchurch, Radnage, Water End.....	3,651,500
5	Naphill, Walters Ash.....	2,049,500
6	Gt & Lt Marlow, Sheepridge, Frieth, Ibstone, Fawley, Hambleden, Cadmore End, Turville, Skirmett, Medmenham, Fingest, Bovingdon Green, North End, South "	1,913,000
7	Hazlemere, Holmer Green, Dashwood Hill, Horsleys Green, Studley Green, Beacons Bottom, Terriers, Eastern Dene.....	3,150,500
8	Flackwell Heath.....	2,827,500
9	Great Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Prestwood, Spurlands End, Western Dene.....	3,513,500
10	Wooburn, Wooburn Green, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Upper Bourne End, Kingsmead Road, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Wooburn Moor.....	2,550,010
11	Bourne End, Well End.....	2,573,500
12	Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End (West Wycombe part), Bolter End	2,541,500
13/15	Extra vehicles used in all Districts.....	5,041,500
	Total....	38,105,510

RAINFALL 1960.

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1960.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough

Station: 333 feet above sea level.

Month	Monthly Rain- fall Inches	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest rainfall	
			Date	Amount Inches
January.....	2.80	22	23rd	.74
February.....	2.46	15	12th	.42
March.....	1.09	11	9th & 28th	.24
April.....	0.59	10	2nd	.23
May.....	1.83	9	12th	.62
June.....	2.83	12	22nd	1.23
July.....	3.55	18	16th	.55
August.....	3.59	19	7th	1.05
September.....	4.71	12	1st	1.72
October.....	5.34	27	8th	1.07
November.....	4.01	25	17th & 25th	.50
December.....	3.49	23	3rd	.92
Totals.....	36.29	203		

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1960.

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit a Summary of the work carried
out by the Department in the year 1960.

I am

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J.P. PERRY

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOREWOOD.

About 10,000 B.C. the earth population was possibly in the neighbourhood of one million. To-day the world population is estimated to be 2,800 million. At present there is a daily increase of 150,000, resulting every three months in an addition to the world population exceeding that of Australia. From the trends of the recent past and from present indications, it is estimated that by the year 2050 the global population may be 9,000 million.

Man's struggle with his environment is going to be related primarily to the matter of population. Five environmental constituent which bear importantly upon the existence and the enjoyment of life are energy, land, water, air and food. These resources have been thought of as boundless in extent and little thought has been given to their conservation.

The most copious of all the earth's resources and the last that man has considered as becoming scarce is the atmosphere. On a global basis there is plenty, but in the crowded areas clear air has become a rare commodity. Man has become singularly indifferent to its quality. He accepts considerable amounts of smoke and fumes in the air he breathes. The threat of exposure to excessive amounts of radiation is a sombre reminder of the necessity to keep our air clean.

Clean water is indispensable. Fears are expressed in some quarters as to the adequacy of supplies having regard to the world's surging population. Clean free-flowing streams were once abundant. However forests have been cut down, pasture lands are now barren, eroded hillsides, many streams have lost their sustained flows, towns and cities have flung out suburbs; the bounding population, expanding industry and new uses of water tax the water resources.

The sufficiency of food supplies for the expanding world population is also a matter for concern. One fifth of the earth's land surface is too cold to grow crops, one fifth is too dry to sustain agriculture, another fifth is too mountainous for cultivation and one tenth is bare solid rock - this leaves only 30 per cent of the land area potentially available for food production. Vast efforts will be needed in order to conserve food supplies and increase food production in order to satisfy world demands.

These reflections on air, food and water may not seem appropriate to our local circumstances. They serve however to give a fresh appraisal of our present standard of environmental hygiene which far too often is taken for granted and not given its true evaluation. Constant vigilance is needed in order to preserve and improve upon existing conditions.

Clean food, clean air, clean water, good housing and good sanitation are foundation stones of a healthy nation and it is this sphere of environmental hygiene which daily claims the attention of the public health inspector.

The Council's participation in this work is reflected to some extent in the report submitted under the following sections:-

SECTION 'A'	HOUSING
SECTION 'B'	WATER SUPPLIES
SECTION 'C'	SANITATION
SECTION 'D'	PEST INFESTATION CONTROL
SECTION 'E'	SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES
SECTION 'F'	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS
SECTION 'G'	ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT
SECTION 'H'	MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 'A'

HOUSING

Generally.

Slum Clearance.

In 1954 - 55 local authorities estimated that there were some 850,000 unfit houses in the country. Of this number they proposed to demolish or close about 375,000 within five years. During the five-year period ending on 31st December, 1960, only just over 255,000 houses were dealt with.

According to these figures therefore, there are some 600,000 unfit houses remaining to be dealt with and at the current rate of clearance of 55,000 - 60,000 houses per year this task should be completed within the next ten years. Since 1955, however, many thousands of houses have become unfit and additional unfit houses have been discovered. As a result it is probable that the number of houses originally estimated to be unfit should have been nearer 1,000,000 than 850,000. This means that there are really about 750,000 houses still to be dealt with.

In the White Paper "Housing in England & Wales" which the Minister recently presented to Parliament, it was pointed out that, at the present rate of progress well over half the housing authorities in England and Wales should by the end of 1965 have completed their clearance programmes. Within ten years the great majority should have rid themselves of all their slums, although in some fifty areas clearance will take much longer. These areas include some of the largest towns and cities and it was estimated in 1958 that they contained 415,156 unfit houses. From 1st January, 1955, to 31st December, 1960, the local authorities concerned cleared just under 70,000. From these figures it is obvious that slums will persist in these areas for a very long time unless some drastic action can be taken to speed up the work.

Houses in Multi-Occupation.

A problem which has grown steadily more serious in recent years is the occupation by several families or lodgers of houses designed originally for only one family. Often the occupiers live under extremely squalid conditions. Local authorities at present possess no really effective powers to deal with houses of this kind. The Government are recognising the seriousness of this problem and are considering introducing legislation designed to give local authorities the new powers they need to deal with it satisfactorily.

Improvement grants.

In 1958 discretionary improvement grants were being made at the rate of about 30,000 per year. The number of grants jumped suddenly however, in 1959 to 41,486 due, no doubt, to the changes in the scheme and there was a further increase in 1960 to 42,988.

In 1959 the standard grants scheme was introduced and 33,061 grants were made in that year. In the following year 82,819 grants were approved. Far more grants, both discretionary and standard, are being made in respect of owner-occupied property than of tenanted. In the case of discretionary grants the ratio of owner-occupied to tenanted is 2 : 1, whereas in the case of standard grants it is 4 : 1. The net result is that in 1960 out of a total of 125,807 grants only 21,877 were for the improvement of privately owned tenanted dwellings.

If the current rate at which improvements are carried out is maintained viz. 120,000 a year then it has been estimated that about 30 years must elapse before all the houses are provided with modern amenities. Many consider that far too long a period, and advocate that the grant schemes should be made more attractive if landlords are to be stimulated to take advantage of them, or legislation should be introduced to enable the local authority to compel owners to improve their houses in appropriate cases.

Standard of Fitness.

It is reasonable to assert that the present fitness standard is no better than the standard recommended more than forty years ago in the Manual on Unfit Houses.

During the past forty years people have come to expect better houses, and newly erected houses have all been provided with bathrooms, hot water supply and other facilities which are to-day regarded as essential.

What is required is a new standard which will secure for every family in the land a home structurally sound and free from any defects which would render it unfit for human habitation, and also satisfy modern standards of comfort and convenience. Housing is a progressive science and standards must constantly advance.

Housing Action.

At the end of 1955 the Council submitted for the Ministry's approval proposals for dealing with 451 unfit houses liable to demolition.

Implementation of the proposals has steadily proceeded in the ensuing years and the programme has been virtually completed by securing the repair, closure or demolition of these individual unfit houses.

During the year under review 69 houses have been the subject of inspection in connection with standard grant applications submitted to the Council.

Few applications have been made for certificates of disrepair. This should not be regarded however as indicating the general fitness of houses. It is more likely to be attributed to a fear of eviction, or of court proceedings, to a lack of interest by the tenants or hesitation on the part of owners to increase the rents of houses requiring repair than to be due to the absence of items of disrepair.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 5, 10 & 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:-
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, (informal notices)..... | 11 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..... | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice..... | 10 |
- (b) Proceedings under Sections 16, 18 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-
- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957..... | 46 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... | 14 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated..... | 16 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings to repair..... | 16 |
| (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders..... | 14 |
| (6) Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners..... | 11 |
| (7) Number of demolition orders revoked..... | 2 |
- (c) Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936:-
- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices..... | 88 |
|---|----|

Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

Applications for certificates of disrepair during the year under review numbered three. The comparatively few applications are to some extent attributable to the majority of notices for rent increases being served soon after the Act came into operation and the response by tenants at that time for certificates of disrepair.

Applications for certificates have however been small in number since the Act came into force, a total of forty-six having been received since the introduction of the Act.

Proceedings under the Rent Act 1957:-

Part 1. Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificates.....	3
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates.....	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates.....	3
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule.....	2
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso in paragraph 5 of the First Schedule...	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued.....	1

Part 11. Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates.....	Nil
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9) Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection.....	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority.....	Nil

Part 111. Applications for Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects.

(11) Application by landlord to Local Authority for Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects.....	1
(12) Decision by Local Authority to issue certificate....	1

Total applications for Certificates of Disrepair since Act came into force..... 46

SECTION 'B'.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The importance of a pure and adequate water supply cannot be over-emphasised. It is an increasingly essential factor in our ways of life and exerts a large influence upon industry and population trends.

Whilst to-day water borne disease has been reduced to insignificant proportions, the possibility of disease from water must never be overlooked. Local authorities have the statutory duty to determine the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies in their districts.

Surveillance of water supplies has therefore continued throughout the year. Of the 92 samples collected and submitted for chemical/bacteriological examination 22 were reported upon as not conforming to a satisfactory standard. Owners of properties were accordingly requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient water supply. In some cases water mains were not within a reasonable distance and the Council approved main extensions of a minor character.

As indicated in the preceding report changes were impending as a result of the Bucks Water Board Act of 1959. The Act has now been implemented resulting in the water undertakings of the High Wycombe Borough Council, Wycombe Rural District and Marlow Water Company being transferred to the Bucks Water Board.

Only two water undertakings now operate in the rural district, viz, the Bucks Water Board and the Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

In 1959 I reported that owing to special circumstances, the Council had installed a chlorinating plant in order to ensure that water derived from a private supply was wholesome. The supply serves 111 houses and a factory.

This supply has been regularly checked at source.

SECTION 'C'.

SANITATION.

Cesspool drainage is still the predominant form of drainage in the area and the attendant problems relating to collection and disposal of sewage remain.

These difficulties are however being progressively resolved as the drainage schemes for Wooburn Valley, Hughenden and Hazlemere proceed. As other schemes come into operation the concept of a network of sewers throughout the district will be appreciably nearer realisation.

In the meanwhile many problems arise in connection with the existing individual drainage systems of houses, and officers of the Public Health Department are constantly advising householders who experience trouble in this connection.

SECTION 'D'.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

It has been estimated that the Common Rat population is at least as large as the human population of Great Britain.

Quite apart from their destructive habits causing them to be a factor of considerable economic importance, rats are definitely carriers of disease, and as such constitute an ever-present menace to the public health.

Rodent extermination is therefore a matter of major importance, and this is reflected in the prevention of Damage by pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises and local authorities in the work of pest extermination. Rodent control is a community responsibility, and in this connection occupiers of premises can play an important part by reporting immediately any infestation which occurs in order that action may be promptly taken.

Workable Area Committee.

The Council is a constituent member of the South Bucks & East Berks Workable Area Committee and meetings of the Committee have been held at regular intervals.

The Committee, comprised of representatives from Local authorities, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other interested organisations, is a most useful medium for exchange of views on pest destruction work.

Research work is continuously carried out by personnel of the Ministry in order to discover more effective material and methods for pest destruction and members of the Committee are kept informed of these developments.

Rodent Control Treatment.

The rodent destruction service which the Council operate has been extensively engaged on farms and other business premises.

The income derived from this work during the year 1960 totalled £1,342.

As a result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises, extermination of rodents has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, refuse tips, etc. Details relating to the work are submitted in the accompanying table.

Other Pests.

Persons troubled with wasps have called upon the Public Health Department for assistance.

As a result 236 wasps' nests were destroyed. Harassed residents were very appreciative of the service given.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

- 27 -

type of Property	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses).	All other (including Business Premises).	Total	Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.....	16	14,931	880	15,827	340
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification.....	-	290	43	333	42
(b) Survey under the Act	16	265	66	347	116
(c) Otherwise.....	-	3,777	1,357	5,134	24
III. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.II) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	1	3	1	5	-
Major					
Minor	2	422	80	504	158
(b) Mice	-	-	-	-	-
Major					
Minor	-	79	54	133	149
IV Number of infested properties (in Sec.III) treated by the Local Authority.....	3	464	110	577	162

SECTION 'E'.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Generally.

A comparatively short time ago it was common practice to obtain food daily from garden, field or market and to take it home for immediate cooking. Milk was sold without being treated. To tide over the winter, the vegetables were home-dried, canned, pickled or preserved. Milk was made into cheese. Except in remote rural areas and in undeveloped countries, the food supply situation is now completely revolutionised by current technology, chemistry and bacteriology.

In the developed countries to-day the bulk of food comes from containers, cans, boxes, bottles, plastic packages etc. It has been subject to preservative treatments of some kind, including pasteurisation, sterilization, refrigeration, freezing, dehydration, pickling, preserving and the applications of antibiotics, hormones, vacuum and irradiation. Foods which used to perish in a day may now be kept attractive and palatable for days, weeks or even years. Milk is now pasteurised in compact heat-exchangers at high temperature. Antibiotics are fed to animals in enormous amounts to increase rate of growth or milk yields. Hormones are implanted in fowls to modify sex characteristics and to improve the quality of meat.

The effects of ionizing radiation in food preservation are impressive, although adverse changes in flavour, colour and odour still present problems and the health implications are yet to be determined. It is estimated that currently some 400 chemicals are being added to foods as preservatives, anti-oxidants, thickeners, thinners, emulsifiers and colouring agents.

In the western countries vending machines are everywhere dispensing food and drink, much of it formerly considered highly perishable. Electronic ranges now do in a few seconds the cooking job which formerly required hours. Housewives can buy complete pre-cooked meals in frozen form, store them in home freezers until needed and quickly serve by warming in an electric range.

The changes in food production and distribution are exciting but at the same time they may present certain hazards to health. Constant vigilance is therefore needed in order to assess any hidden dangers which may arise from the new techniques now being employed.

Food Hygiene.

The implementation of the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, byelaws and regulations may be considered as a combined operation with the following potential participants: The Ministers, local authorities, local authority officers, food trade employers and employees, the shopping public, magistrates' courts and the Press.

The public, being important and powerful, can play a most effective part in this team. If practices which are aesthetically objectionable are found they can complain and withdraw their custom.

Often, however, bad food practices are not challenged because of a national disinclination to be involved in any public argument and partly because members of the public are not yet sufficiently well informed as to the hygienic standards they are entitled to expect. Money spent upon educating the public to an expectation of higher standards of food hygiene on a national scale is money well spent. An informed and discriminating public can accomplish much towards securing satisfactory standards.

In progressing towards clean food much has already been done by the food trade by way of improved packaging and display, by local authorities and their officers by means of education during frequent routine inspections, and by enforcement of legislative control in the case of persistent offenders. The improvements made with regard to premises and equipment have not however been matched by improved methods.

Cafes, Restaurants & Food Shops.

A summary of the work of the department in connection with visits to cafes, restaurants and food shops is as follows:-

Number of visits to food premises.....	1,117
Food rooms redecorated.....	21
Food rooms repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows).....	17
Wash-basins provided.....	3
New Sanitary accommodation provided.....	2
Provision of constant hot water supply.....	4
Rodent infestation dealt with.....	24
Additional ventilation provided.....	6
Refuse receptacles provided.....	14

Sale of Ice-cream.

Ice-cream remains a popular commodity and sales continue to increase. Fifteen new registrations of premises for the sale of ice-cream have been approved during the year under review and the number of registered premises now total 131. In nearly all cases the ice-cream is sold in a pre-packed condition.

Milk.

Only milk which is heat-treated or tuberculin tested can be sold within the Council's district which is a "Specified Area".

Milk is almost free of tuberculosis and this has been achieved partly by the eradication of diseased cows and especially by heat treatment.

Infection with brucella organisms however is widespread throughout the dairy herds of this country, and these organisms can infect man and cause undulant fever. The reservoir of infection is cattle and the main vehicle of transmission is infected raw milk or infected raw cream. The incidence of brucella infection in man is not precisely known. One of the main reasons for this is that neither the disease in man nor contagious abortion in cattle is compulsory notifiable.

The most effective way to prevent human infection would be to eradicate this reservoir, that is infected animals. Vaccination of cattle and other measures are being adopted in order to achieve this end. Whilst awaiting for the cattle disease to be eradicated two measures commend themselves viz. the extension of pasteurization to all milk and secondly the compulsory notification of the human disease.

The Council's participation in administering legislation dealing with milk is reflected in the following information:-

Number of visits to dairy premises.....	162
Dairy premises registered.....	12
Number of dealers' licences issued to use designation "Pasteurised"	17
Number of dealers' licences issued to use designation "Tuberculin Tested"...	16
Number of supplementary licences issued to use designation "Pasteurised"	5
Number of supplementary licences issued to use designation "Tuberculin Tested"	6
Number of licences issued to use designation "Sterilised".....	5
Number of cases of milk infected with tubercle bacilli.....	-
Number of cases of milk infected with brucella.....	3
Number of milk samples taken for biological examination.....	8

Complaints.

Complaints received in connection with foodstuffs purchased included:-

Spent match in bread.
Mouldy steak and kidney pie.
Insect in bread.
Dirty paper in bag of crisps.
Dirty milk bottle.

These complaints were investigated and resulted in letters of a cautionary character being sent to four offenders.

In the case of the dirty milk bottle legal proceedings were instituted and the defendants were fined £10 with costs.

Meat Inspection.

In the preceding report I reviewed the provisions of Section 3 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, whereby each local authority is required to report to the Minister on:-

- (a) the existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities and
- (b) the facilities which are, or are likely to become available to meet these requirements.

During the year under review a report was prepared and submitted to the Minister for approval. The report, comprehensive in character included information on the situation and type of district, population; consultations held with neighbouring local authorities, meat traders and other interested organisations; details of existing slaughterhouses and the works required to be carried out in order to make them comply with the new construction regulations.

The report was duly approved, and the 1st July, 1962 is prescribed as the date from which all slaughterhouses in the Council's district must comply with the construction regulations.

There are 3 private slaughterhouses in the district and the occupiers have again co-operated in their efforts to maintain satisfactory food hygiene standards and to ensure that animals are humanely treated.

All animals killed in the slaughterhouses within the Council's district have been examined by your officers.

The amount of meat condemned has again been comparatively small due to selective buying by the butchers and the purchase of animals reared locally, resulting in a minimum of transportation with consequent reduced risk of injury.

Detail's relating to the animals killed in the slaughterhouses within the Council's area are set forth in the table on page 33.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and 1951.

In pursuance of the above Acts the Council renewed 16 licences and granted 2 new licences to persons engaged in the slaughtering of food animals.

Poultry Packing Stations.

There are two establishments in the area in which poultry are processed on an extensive scale.

The birds are killed, bled, put into plucking machines, singed, eviscerated, eviscerated caracases washed and placed into chill-tanks. The caracases are then placed in diaphane envelopes and subsequently loaded into blast freezers. The birds emerge in a hard frozen condition and are packed in cartons in readiness for delivery.

These poultry packing stations have been the subject of frequent inspections and they are claiming an increasing proportion of the inspectorate's time.

MEAT.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	301	48	82	1,266	1,004	-
Number inspected	301	48	82	1,266	1,004	
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	2	5	6	-
Part carcass or organ condemned....	41	8	-	26	31	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.....	13.6%	16.7%	2.4%	2.4%	3.6%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>						
Whole carcass condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcass or organ condemned....	-	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	-	-	-	-	.29	-
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>						
Part carcass or organ condemned....	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses refrigerated.....	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned..	-	-	-	-	-	-

These figures represent a total carcass weight condemned of
1 cwt. 1 qtr. 24 lbs. and weight of offal 5 cwt. 1 qtr. 2 lbs.

SECTION 'F'.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Factories.

The factory premises registered with the Council number 168.

The tables submitted herewith contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and include the work of the Public Health Inspector in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority.

Matters claiming attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire. A number of factories have canteens and are therefore subject to the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Homework.

A provision of the Factories Act 1937 requires firms employing outworkers to furnish to the local authority twice yearly lists giving the names and addresses of persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory.

Homes of the outworkers should conform to a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

The lists submitted to the Council showed that outworkers were principally employed on the making and altering of wearing apparel.

1. Inspections made for Provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities..	10	18	2	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities..	158	171	14	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals.....	168	189	16	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of Cleanliness..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable tempera- ture.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventila- tion.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences.					
(a) Insufficient.....	5	5	Nil	2	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	7	7	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworks)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	15	15	Nil	3	Nil

Number of Certificates issued relating to the provision of sufficient means of Fire Escape..... 2

OUTWORK.

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work.	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec.110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel Making etc.....	38	-	-	-	-	-
Household Linen	5	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace curtains & nets....	4	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers.....	5	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	52	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority.

Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by Regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean material.

Accordingly premises have been visited, records checked and samples of rag flock taken where deemed necessary. Generally the filling materials were found to be marked with the British Standards Institution mark signifying that the materials comply with the prescribed standards of cleanliness.

SECTION 'G'.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The whole field of air pollution is an aspect of public health inspection which demands increasing attention by the Government, local authorities, industry and householders.

The great majority of air pollution is caused by the inefficient burning of fuels. It is in the interest of all concerned that the war against atmospheric pollution should be waged with the utmost vigour. The emission of smoke, grit and other pollutants constitutes not only a public nuisance causing substantial damage to health, buildings, fabrics and plants, but is also a source of considerable fuel wastage.

The Clean Air Act is comprehensive and is the first really effective legislation for dealing with the social evil of atmospheric pollution. Hitherto all legislation, albeit ineffective, dealing with atmospheric pollution was limited to industrial and commercial premises. The Clean Air Act, however, gives the local authority power to deal with the domestic smoke problem by making an order, which must be confirmed by the Minister, declaring the whole or any part of its district as a "smoke control area".

Such an area containing dwelling houses, industrial and commercial properties or a mixture of all three, would become a smoke free area in so far as any emission of smoke would constitute an offence under the Act.

The domestic fire burning bituminous coal is responsible for more than half the total smoke from all sources. If therefore the Clean Air Act is to become effective and the clean air campaign successful, no local authority can ignore its responsibilities on the grounds that its area is partly or wholly residential or non-industrial.

Railways.

The reduction of railway smoke is progressing as the British Transport Commission implements its modernisation schemes.

Industry.

The prevention of industrial smoke raises many technical problems. Considerable sums however are being spent on plant improvement and industry is generally recognising its obligations to reduce air pollution.

Domestic.

The domestic chimney is responsible for more than half the total smoke from all sources, and for the first time local authorities can now control domestic smoke. Smoke control orders are the means provided by the Act for dealing with the domestic smoke problem.

Improvements in this sphere are however evolving. New and efficient appliances are replacing the old type of fire grate. Smokeless fuels are ousting coal, and gas, electricity and oil fuel are being used increasingly.

Control Measures.

Control measures which the Council are at present operating in order to prevent atmospheric pollution include:-

- (1) Action where necessary against the emission of dark smoke and securing the minimum emission of grit and dust.
- (2) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (3) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings.
- (4) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smokeless fuel appliances.
- (5) The Minister has now approved a smoke control order made jointly by the Council and a neighbouring local authority in connection with a new housing estate, part of which is in the Council's district, and part in the area of the neighbouring authority.

SECTION 'H'.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravans.

Much could be written on this subject. In the previous report I stated that the Government was preparing new legislation which had as its object a more effective control of caravan sites and improvement of conditions by requiring good standards of lay-out, equipment and maintenance.

A report by Sir Arton Wilson on "Caravans as Homes", dated 31st July, 1959, was presented to Parliament by the Minister of Housing & Local Government in November, 1959. The Act with which we are now concerned received Royal Assent on the 29th July, 1960, and came into force one month later. As well as strengthening the powers of planning authorities it introduces a new licensing system.

Implementation of the Act necessitated a very thorough survey of the district in order to determine all the caravans stationed within the area. The number was found to approximate to 600.

The caravans were then classified into groups according to their usage e.g. some are used for holiday purposes, others for residential use and others simply stored and not used for human habitation. Next followed planning consideration of each site to assess its status.

In certain cases permissions were given for sites to continue for varying periods, in other cases enforcement procedure was recommended to clear sites and a further number of sites were assessed as being suitable for discontinuance action.

Following planning permissions site licences had to be issued and conditions prescribed, appropriate to each case, in order to regulate each site and secure satisfactory conditions.

The Staff of the Public Health Department has been extensively engaged in this work.

It is said that caravan sites are an admission of failure to build houses or make available houses at prices which the people can afford. Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses.

When one really appreciates that the standard caravan contains 165 square feet for all living purposes and that this standard caravan could be contained within the principal living room of a normal house, the attitude of many planning authorities and public health authorities in considering the caravan a sub-standard form of dwelling, can be appreciated.

It would seem impossible to lead a full and active family life in the cramped conditions of a caravan. Many feel that where there are small children in a family, a caravan is not a suitable home at all, and indeed the evidence obtained by a social survey suggested that about 80 per cent of caravan households were either wanting to move into a house or flat or bungalow, in the foreseeable future, if they could get one that suited their needs.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Certain provisions of this Act require local authorities to determine the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences for the use of workers on agricultural units, and by notice secure additional sanitary accommodation where there is inadequate provision.

During the year 1960 inspection of agricultural units has continued and 14 occupiers have been requested to provide sufficient sanitary accommodation for their employees.

Hairdressers.

The Council has adopted Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act which provides for the registration of hairdressers and barbers.

The Council have now made byelaws under the same Act for the purpose of securing cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

Twenty-four premises have now been registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdresser and/or barber.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals & Marine Stores.

There are 12 premises within the rural district where the business of dealing in old metals is transacted. In accordance with Section 88 of the Public Health Amendments Act, 1907, records must be kept in relation to articles purchased by such dealers.

The National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 50.

A local authority has the responsibility to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or has been found dead in the area, providing that no other suitable arrangement has been made for the burial.

During the year 1960 the Council were called upon to arrange for the burial of two persons.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

One shop was licensed during the year under review.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliances not fitted with a suitable guard.

No contraventions of the Act have been observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

The Council granted two licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Infectious Diseases.

Visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded, contacts checked and disinfection of rooms and bedding carried out. Details of the department's work is indicated below:-

Number of visits paid.	95
" " premises disinfected (tuberculosis).....	12
" " premises disinfected (other infectious diseases)	25

Noise.

Nuisance from noise is a natural phenomenon in our daily life. Like most forms of nuisance, much of the noise suffered is either unnecessary or capable of prevention, and, because it may curtail sleep, or otherwise affect health, it is only right that the hand of the local authority should have been strengthened by the appearance on the Statute Book of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

The casual relationship between noise and vibration is at last formally recognised in law, and any noise or vibration, amounting to a nuisance at common law, becomes a statutory nuisance within the meaning of the Public Health Act, 1936.

As with earlier advances into new fields of effort, this Act contains the defence clause whereby the defendant may plead that, where a charge of noise from his trade or business is concerned, he has taken the best practicable means of preventing or of counteracting the effect of noise or vibration. The Act, moreover, does not apply to noise or vibration from aircraft.

During the year six complaints of noise nuisances were received and the cases investigated. In instances where statutory nuisances were confirmed, appropriate action was taken in order to secure abatement of the nuisances.

CONCLUSION.

The report has set out some of the ways a local authority contributes in the field of environmental health. The target, promotion of health, is an exciting one and exacting in its achievement.

Often however the work does not receive the evaluation it deserves. Therein lies the danger of losing environmental health standards now enjoyed and which have been secured over a long period of time by immeasurable effort.

Constant vigilance and action by the central government and local authorities supported by an informed public are needed in order to sustain action whereby the standards we now enjoy are maintained and improved upon.

